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**New Hampshire Employment Security (NHES)  
Prosecutes Case to Defraud State of New Hampshire**

On Friday, December 1, 2006, Juan Ortiz of Manchester was convicted in the Hillsborough County Superior Court North of four counts of fraud by non-disclosure in violation of the Unemployment Compensation Statute. The court imposed a sentence of one year in the House of Correction and a fine of \$1,000. The Court further ordered Mr. Ortiz to make restitution to the New Hampshire Department of Employment Security through the New Hampshire Department of Probation. He will pay an administrative fee of 17% to the New Hampshire Department of Probation as part of his order of restitution. All but 5 days of the sentence of incarceration was suspended conditioned upon two years good behavior, payment of restitution and performing community service under the direction of the New Hampshire Department of Employment Security.

Mr. Ortiz faced a maximum penalty of 1 year at the House of Correction and a \$2,000.00 fine, plus \$400.00 penalty assessment. Additionally, criminal convictions under the unemployment compensation statute disqualify an applicant from receiving benefits for 52 weeks following the conviction and additional consequences.

Mr. Ortiz began lawfully collecting unemployment benefits after becoming unemployed but continued filing for benefits after returning to work without mentioning his new employment. Unemployment fraud is frequently discovered when NH Employment Security computers cross-reference the information claimants list on weekly claim certifications to quarterly wage reports filed by their employers. This includes reports of persons who may be collecting benefits fraudulently in New Hampshire while they are employed in other states. Employers also report to the state all new hires, which are then cross-referenced by the State.

The New Hampshire Department of Employment Security is aggressively seeking convictions in fraudulent unemployment insurance cases. "We are committed to providing unemployment insurance benefits that are fair and benefit the great majority of workers who are honest," said Commissioner Brothers. "The small minority who break the rules face serious consequences."

Suspected Unemployment Insurance fraud can be reported by calling 1-800-852-3400, ex. 4016. For additional information, go to <http://www.nhes.state.nh.us> and select Employment Security Division, Unemployment Insurance, and Fraud.

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